

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the catalyst is montmorillonite-K10 modified with an acid function. Support of the amendment is found in the specification on page 1, third paragraph, line 4-8, which states that "Clays such as montmorillonite with an acidic function are being considered as alternative catalysts for these reactions." It is also supported by the Examples 1-7 on pages 4-6, which shows that modified montmorillonite K-10 as a solid acid catalysts are used.

No new matter is introduced hereby. Entry of the amendment is requested.

RESPONSE

Claim 3 is cancelled as being redundant. Claim 1 and claims 2, 4-5 dependent thereon are amended to recite that the catalyst used in the process is montmorillonite K-10 with an acidic function. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested in view of the amendment of claim

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1-5 were rejected under §112, first and second paragraphs. The Examiner contend that the examples only showed that modified montmorillonite K-10 was shown to be useful as a catalyst for the claimed invention, and that the specification failed to provide a process by which the montmorillonite K-10 was modified.

Claim 3 is cancelled as redundant. Claim 1 now clearly recites that the catalyst is montmorillonite K-10 modified with an acidic function. This is clear based on the statement on page 1 of the specification and Examples 1-7. Also in Example 1, the data showed that the modified montmorillonite K-10 was the useful catalyst. In Examples 2-7, the catalyst was referred to as modified montmorillonite K-10 solid acid catalyst. Thus, to one of ordinary skill in the art it is clear that the catalyst was acid modified montmorillonite K-10 with an acidic function.

The Examiner also pointed out that the specification did not provide information on how the montmorillonite K-10 was modified. It is well known to those of skill in the art that montmorillonite clays are modified in one of four ways:

1. Pillaring with polyhydroxy one of the metal cations;
2. modify with an acid function;
3. ion exchange with a transition metal;
4. impregnation with metal oxide.

The processes for the modification of montmorillonite clays are also well known. Since the processes for modifying montmorillonite clays are well known to those of skill in the art, it would not be necessary to describe the process.


It is clear from the specification that the montmorillonite K-10 was modified and is acidic. It is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art reading that the specification that the montmorillonite K-10 that was used was modified with an acid function and such acid modified montmorillonite K-10 is the catalyst that was used.

The rejection of claim 3 is now moot in view of the cancellation of claim 3.

No other issues have been raised by the Examiner. For the above reasons, Applicants believe that the invention as claimed is allowable and an early allowance is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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